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For Immediate Release
April 26, 2005

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McManus bill would give fathers additional legal rights

LANSING – Biological fathers would get additional legal rights in certain situations under legislation introduced today in the Michigan Senate, announced Sen. Michelle McManus, sponsor of the bill.

Senate Bill 436 would expand the legal definition of a child born out of wedlock to include children conceived by someone other than the man married to their mother. This change would give biological fathers access to the legal system to establish paternity of a child regardless of the mother's marital status. Under the legislation, a biological father would need to file a claim within one year of the child's birth.

"With recent court cases and advancements in DNA technology, this bill is necessary to make sure that everyone's rights are being considered in such delicate situations," McManus said.

Under current law, when a married woman gives birth, the father of the baby is presumed to be the woman's husband. Several recent court cases have shown that this is not always the case.

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